



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

June 10, 2005

# News Release

## **ICE NABS PREDATOR ON PROBATION**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—A 55 year-old predator who was sentenced to four years in prison for committing lascivious acts against a mentally handicapped 12 year-old child is now in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody.

Ramon Lopez Paulino, a citizen of Dominican Republic, was convicted in Bayamon, Puerto Rico Nov. 1, 2004. He was sentenced to four years in prison; however, the sentence was suspended and he was placed on probation. ICE agents took Lopez-Paulino into custody yesterday after his parole officer notified ICE of subject's probation.

Lopez-Paulino is removable by virtue of his criminal conviction under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). ICE has subsequently placed Lopez-Paulino in removal proceedings.

“We have been extremely successful in detecting, arresting and removing these criminals under Operation Predator and we will continue to do so”, said Lydia St. John-Mellado, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the ICE San Juan Office. “Predators who hurt children, our most vulnerable citizens, must know that we will not rest until they are brought to justice.”

This arrest is part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 5,730 individuals arrested nationwide.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*